

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:
 - performing a primary image pass to print a plurality of scan lines using enable ink jets; and
 - performing one or more additional imaging passes to print additional scan lines to fill in for one or more disable ink jets using one or more of the enable ink jets wherein the additional scan lines would normally be printed by the one or more disable ink jets if they were operative.
2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
 - determining if at least one or more ink jets are improperly functioning and disabling the one or more improperly functioning ink jets.
3. The method according to Claim 2, wherein response to a determination that one or more ink jets are improperly functioning, determining whether or not one or more other operational ink jets are of a same color which may replace the one or more improperly functioning ink jets.
4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein response to a determination that one or more other operational ink jets of the same color may fill in for the one or more improperly functioning ink jets, disabling the one or more improperly functioning ink jets and performing a primary image pass followed by one or more additional imaging passes to fill in for the one or more disable ink jets by enabling the one or more other operational jets of the same color.

5. The method according to Claim 4 further comprising:

performing a left imaging pass by starting a secondary imaging pass right of the primary imaging pass such that the enabled neighboring operational ink jet is lined up horizontally where the disable ink jet started on the primary imaging pass.

6. The method according to Claim 4 further comprising:

performing a right imaging pass by starting a secondary imaging pass left of the primary imaging pass such that the enabled neighboring operational ink jet is lined up horizontally where the disabled ink jet started on the primary imaging pass.

7. The method according to Claim 4 further comprising:

performing a left imaging pass by starting a secondary imaging pass right of the primary imaging pass such that the enable neighboring operational ink jet is lined up horizontally where the disable ink jet started on the primary imaging pass, and

performing a right imaging pass by starting a secondary imaging pass left of the primary imaging pass such that the enable neighboring operational ink jet is lined up horizontally where the disable ink jet started on the primary imaging pass.

8. A method comprising:

depositing a plurality of scan lines on a unidirectionally rotating print drum using enable ink jets; and

depositing a plurality of additional scan lines on the unidirectionally rotating print drum using one or more of the enable ink jets wherein the plurality of additional scan lines would normally be printed by disabled ink jets if they were operative whereby the one or more enable ink jets fill in for the one or more disable ink jets.

9. The method according to Claim 8, further comprising:

determining if at least one or more ink jets are improperly functioning and disabling the one or more improperly functioning ink jets.

10. The method according to claim 9 further comprising:

depositing the plurality of additional scan lines by performing a left imaging pass such that the one or more enable ink jets line up horizontally where the one or more disable ink jets would normally be printed by the one or more disable ink jets.

11. The method according to claim 9 further comprising:

depositing the plurality of additional scan lines by performing a right imaging pass such that the one or more enable ink jets line up horizontally where the one or more disable ink jets would normally be printed by the one or more disable ink jets.

12. The method according to Claim 9, further comprising:

depositing the plurality of additional scan lines by performing a left imaging pass such that the one or more enable ink jets line up horizontally where the one or more disable ink jets would normally be printed by the one or more disable ink jets; and

depositing the plurality of additional scan lines by performing a right imaging pass such that the one or more enable ink jets line up horizontally where the one or more disable ink jets would normally be printed by the one or more disabled ink jets.

13. The method according to claim 8 further comprising:

substituting the one or more disable ink jets with a combination of different colors using the one or more operational ink jets.

14. A printer comprising:

a print engine having image rendering and handling software commands to enable or disable one or more user selected jets wherein once user selected jets are determined to have failed one or more non-failed jets neighboring the one or more failed jets are enabled to substitute for the one or more failed jets.

15. The printer according to Claim 14 wherein the image rendering and handling software contains one or more Page Description Languages.

16. The printer according to Claim 14 wherein a front panel control for user interaction is provided to enable or disable one or more user selected jets.

17. The printer according to Claim 14 wherein print jobs using product specific commands are used to enable or disable one or more user selected jets.

18. The printer according to Claim 14 wherein subsequent print jobs command the print engine with a flag indicating whether or not the print engine may perform failed jet substitution.

19. The printer according to Claim 14 wherein a default print command is used for the print engine to perform jet substitution when one or more jets are disabled.

20. The printer according to Claim 14 wherein user developed print files command the print engine to not perform jet substitution.